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RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership", and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 17th, 29th and 42nd meetings, on 27 October, 10 November and 8 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/AC.2/50/SR.17, 29 and 42). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 3 and 4 and from 9 to 11 October (see A/C.2/50/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (A/50/480);

(b) Letter dated 18 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the official communiqué signed by all Heads of Government of the South Pacific Forum at Madang, Papua New Guinea, on 15 September 1995 (A/50/475);

(c) Letter dated 2 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 September 1995 (A/50/518).

4. At the 17th meeting, on 27 October, an introductory statement was made by the Chief of the Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs Branch of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat (see A/C.2/50/SR.17).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/50/L.11 AND A/C.2/50/L.67

5. At the 29th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, subsequently joined by Kyrgyzstan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" (A/C.2/50/L.11), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993 and 49/95 of 19 December 1994 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership,

"Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to encourage a constructive dialogue for enhancing development and to facilitate actions in that regard,

"Noting also the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development,

"Recognizing that the continued trend towards deepening interdependence among countries and the increasing globalization of economic issues and problems present risks and uncertainties as well as opportunities and challenges for the dialogue on international economic cooperation,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership; 1/

"2. Reaffirms that the dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving sustained economic

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1/ A/50/480.

growth and sustainable development as well as improving the international economic environment that is conducive to such development, and that the United Nations should reinforce its activities in order to facilitate such a dialogue;

"3. Stresses the need to put development at the centre of United Nations activities, and that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international economic cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community;

"4. Recognizes that the ongoing discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development and its outcome provide the opportunity to strengthen the constructive dialogue with a view to creating a genuine partnership on development issues and revitalizing international economic cooperation for development;

"5. Decides to conduct, for a period of two days in the early part of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, a high-level dialogue on the social and economic impacts of globalization and interdependence on the developing countries and their policy implications, and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with relevant organizations and development actors, to make preparations for such a dialogue and to include new information technology and the global economy in the dialogue under this theme;

"6. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, for consideration and action, recommendations on a multi-year thematic programme for future dialogue;

"7. Further requests the Secretary-General to elaborate his proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly and summit-level meetings of a representative character, on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in the agenda for development;

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled 'Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership'."

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" (A/C.2/50/L.67), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.11, and orally revised the text in the fourth preambular paragraph by deleting at the end of the third line the word "the".

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/50/SR.42).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.67, as orally revised (see para. 10).

9. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993 and 49/95 of 19 December 1994 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to encourage a constructive dialogue for enhancing development and to facilitate actions in that regard,

Noting also the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development,

Recognizing that the continued trend towards deepening interdependence among countries and the increasing globalization of economic issues and problems present risks and uncertainties as well as opportunities and challenges for dialogue on international economic cooperation,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership; 2/

2. Reaffirms that such a dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development as well as improving the international economic environment that is conducive to such development, and that the United Nations should reinforce its activities in order to facilitate such a dialogue;

3. Stresses the need to put development at the centre of United Nations activities and that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting

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2/ Ibid.

international economic cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community;

4. Recognizes that the ongoing discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development and its outcome aim at strengthening constructive dialogue with a view to enhancing and revitalizing international economic cooperation for development through increased partnership among and between countries;

5. Agrees to hold a high-level dialogue for a period of two days at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly - the date, modalities and focus of the discussion to be decided on in the context of the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development and the decision taken on the adoption of the Agenda - on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, relevant organizations and other development actors, to make initial preparations for such a dialogue;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue, taking into consideration the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 3/ the outcome of the ongoing discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development, and on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session for its consideration, recommendations on possible future themes for dialogue, including the issues of regional integration and of new information technology and the global economy;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to elaborate his proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly, on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in an Agenda for Development;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" under the item entitled "Agenda for Development".

3/ A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22.